



County of Los Angeles
INTERAGENCY CHILDREN'S SERVICES CONSORTIUM

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March 18, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO TRANSFER WRAPAROUND LEAD DEPARTMENT
RESPONSIBILITIES FROM DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH) TO
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (DCFS)
(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED)
(3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

On behalf of the Interagency Children's Services Consortium (Consortium), approve the transfer of the lead department designation for the Wraparound Program from the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On October 20, 1998, your Board committed to the development of a long-term system of care for returning children to families, supported by the services needed to live safely and well within their communities. The Consortium adopted the Wraparound approach as the foundation for building this system.

On October 10, 2000, your Board approved two Wraparound contracts for services in Service Planning Areas (SPAs) 2 and 3 as Phase I of the Wraparound Program. On November 6, 2001 your Board approved a Phase II expansion of the Wraparound

Program by authorizing contracts with Lead Wraparound Agencies (LWAs) for the provision of Wraparound services throughout the County. Currently, there are thirteen (13) contracts in place covering all areas of the County with Wraparound services.

On January 15, 2002, your Board approved the implementation of the Wraparound Infrastructure within DMH which was also designated to serve as the lead department on behalf of the Consortium.

This recommended action will align and coordinate the Wraparound program with other existing permanency-focused programs. Additionally, Wraparound training, administrative monitoring, contract and financial functions are already managed within DCFS and this action will align the program with these existing administrative functions.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan:

Goal 5: Children and Families Well-being, to improve the well-being of children and families in Los Angeles County as measured by the achievements in the five outcome areas adopted by the Board: good health, economic well-being, safety and survival, social and emotional well-being, and educational workforce readiness; Strategy 1: Implement integrated service delivery initiatives to demonstrate substantial progress toward achieving improved outcomes for children and families.

The recommended actions provide for coordinated services to improve health, safety and survival, and emotional and social well-being outcomes for children and families.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There is no fiscal impact.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Wraparound is a strengths-based, family-centered approach with an overall goal of maintaining children in a permanent family setting using community-based services and supports. The action of your Board on November 6, 2001 authorized the expansion of the Wraparound Program into Phase II. The Phase II expansion of the program provided for eleven (11) additional service providers to act as LWAs to provide Wraparound services throughout the County.

The significant investment in resources, the complexity and diversity of the types of

services provided to needy children and families, and the challenging coordination and collaboration efforts associated with the Wraparound Program require that an infrastructure be established to provide adequate oversight to ensure the effective delivery and monitoring of these services. DCFS is recommended as lead department for the Wraparound infrastructure because the Department is the recipient of the Title IV-E Waiver and SB163 redirected foster home funds that support Wraparound and due to their strong focus on permanency for children.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The Board's approval of a Wraparound Infrastructure provided the County with the organizational structure and resources necessary to ensure adequate oversight, coordination, collaboration, monitoring and reporting in support of the implementation of Wraparound countywide. The transfer of lead agency responsibilities to DCFS will further the expansion of the program and provide strong alignment with other permanency-driven initiatives. It will also provide a means to more efficiently access Title IV-E and SB163 resources for the program support.

CONCLUSION

The Board's approval of the transfer of lead agency responsibility for the Wraparound Infrastructure from DMH to DCFS completes the Consortium's long-term care plan with coordination of permanency services and resources within the same Department.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:MK:SE:kd

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Auditor-Controller
Interim Director, Department of Children and Family Services
Director, Department of Health Services
Director, Department of Mental Health
Chief Probation Officer
Superintendent, County Office of Education